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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Timothy R. Socier et al.	)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
		)	LMS3072P0270US (LS-034/037)
Serial No.:	10/811,180	)	
		)	Confirmation No. 2025
Filed:	March 26, 2004	)	Group Art Unit: 3754
		)	
For:	VALVE FOR DISPENSING PRODUCT	)	Examiner: Joseph A. Kaufman
		)	

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner For Patents  
P. O. 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action dated May 23, 2005.

**ELECTION OF SPECIE**

Applicants provisionally elect the specie B drawn to FIGS. 15-29 as defined by the Examiner.

**LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS READABLE ON THE ELECTED SPECIE B**

The following claims read on each (all) of the embodiments designated specie B which are illustrated in FIGS. 15-29: claims 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16.

**THE ELECTED SPECIE B INCLUDES FOUR (4) EMBODIMENTS**

Specie B includes four different embodiments: the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 15-24, the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 25, the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 26, and the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 27-29.

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER CLAIM 9 TO BE GENERIC**

The Examiner has stated that it appears that no claim is generic.

Applicants strongly disagree.

Claim 9 is generic and covers both specie A drawn to FIGS. 1-14 and specie B drawn to FIGS. 15-29.

The first subparagraph of claim 9 sets forth a peripheral attachment portion (e.g., portion 50 in the specie A embodiment shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, and portion 50A in the specie B embodiment shown in FIG. 17 (as well as portion 50B in the specie B embodiment shown in FIG. 25 and portion 50C in the specie B embodiment shown in FIG. 26)).

The second subparagraph of claim 9 also sets forth a sleeve which extends either inwardly or outwardly from the peripheral attachment portion (e.g., such a sleeve is designated by reference number 70 in the specie A embodiment as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, and is designated by reference number 70A in the specie B embodiment shown in FIG. 17).

The third paragraph of claim 9 sets forth an elongate head having at least one elongate slit (e.g., the specie A head 90 in FIG. 8 and the specie B head 90A in FIG. 17).

Claim 9 has a scope that clearly covers specie A and specie B. Indeed, it can be noted that claim 17 (which is indirectly dependent upon generic claim 9) sets forth a structure which is present in at least the specie B embodiments illustrated in FIGS. 15-24, FIG. 25, and FIG. 26, whereas claim 19 (which is indirectly dependent upon generic claim 9) sets forth a structure which is present in the specie A embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1-14.

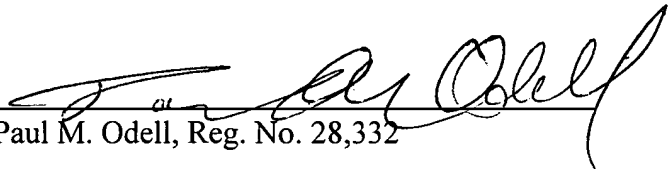
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his conclusion that

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Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his conclusion that there does not appear to be a generic claim.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Paul M. Odell, Reg. No. 28,332

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER  
Citicorp Center, Suite 3800  
500 West Madison Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511  
(312) 876-1800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 23, 2005.

  
Paul M. Odell